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PATENT

Application of

McCown et al.

Serial No. :

09/057,313

Filed

Applicant

April 8, 1998

Title

CONTAINER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

Docket Examiner 033449-002 McAllister

Art Unit

3652

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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AMENDMENT

In response to the Office action mailed February 22, 2002, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Rewrite claims 36 and 40 such that they read as follows:

Serial No.: 09/057,313

Attorney Docket No.: 033449-002

Amendment

36. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said lifting and transporting step includes gripping each container with said gripping portion, and wherein said positioning step includes, for selected ones of said containers, raising and lowering, rotating, and inclining said gripping portion and said selected ones of said gripped containers relative to said body portion.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said marine vessel includes a rail extending along a deck of said ship, and wherein the method further comprising the steps of, before said lifting and transporting step, providing a ramp having a downwardly extending lip and coupling said ramp to said marine vessel such that said lip is located adjacent to and inwardly of said rail and such that said ramp extends between said vessel and a loading dock.

Remarks

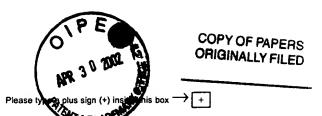
Claims 36 and 40 have been amended. Marked-up copies of the amended claims, identifying the changes thereto, accompanies this Amendment. Review and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim 36 is rejected as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification. In particular, the Office action takes the position that the raising, lowering, rotating and inclining motions for each container are not disclosed in the specification. Accordingly, claim 36 has been amended to clarify that the raising, lowering, rotating and inclining motions are carried out for selected ones of the containers.

Claim 40 has been amended to change the term "rail with a downwardly depending lip" to "ramp with a downwardly extending lip" as requested in the Office action.

Claims 16-19, 21, 22 and 22-40 are rejected as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over U.S. Pat. No. 4,325,667 to Freeman in light of U.S. Pat. No. 3,691,595 to Backteman et al and U.S. Pat. No. 4,201,511 to Charles. This rejection is traversed for the reasons discussed below.

As noted in the Office action, the Freeman reference discloses lifting strapped pallets and transporting the strapped pallets onto a ship via a forklift. The Office action notes that the





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	Application Number	09/057,313	1
TRANSMITTAL	Filing Date	April 8, 1998]
FORM	First Named Inventor	McCown et al.	
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Group Art Unit	3652 RECE	VED
	Examiner Name	McAllister MAY 0 8	2002
Total Number of Pages in This Submission 10	Attorney Docket Number	033449-002 CPOL	360
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Fee Attached Fee Attached Drawing Amendment / Reply After Final Affidavits/declaration(s) Extension of Time Request Express Abandonment Request Information Disclosure Statement Copy of Priority Document(s) Remarks additional fee	to Convert to a conal Application of Attorney, Revocation of Correspondence al Disclaimer at for Refund	After Allowance Communication to Group Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Proprietary Information Status Letter Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): RECE Return Post Card MAY 1 Technology Care by authorized to charge any see for any extension of time), or to it No.: 20-0809.	2002
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